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# Soviets Say U.S. Agents Tried To Kidnap Diplomat

By David Wise  
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WASHINGTON — A mystery-shrouded international cloak-and-dagger case surfaced partially Wednesday with a formal charge by the Soviet Union that American intelligence agents tried to kidnap the first secretary of the Soviet Embassy in Tokyo.

The Soviet news agency Tass said in a dispatch from Moscow that a Soviet protest note alleged that "American intelligence agencies" had attempted to snatch a diplomat identified as Georgi Pokrovsky.

#### A Qualification

State Department spokesman Robert J. McCloskey confirmed that the Soviet protest note had been received and said it was "under study here."

McCloskey added that John Guthrie, deputy chief of mission of the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, made clear in accepting the note from the Foreign Ministry that by doing so, the United States was "not accepting any of the charges."

It was learned that the Soviet note, which was not made public either in Moscow or Washington, claims that U.S. intelligence agents roughed up Pokrovsky. According to one report, it charges the alleged episode took place in a hotel room. The note gives details of the supposed kidnap attempt.

Pokrovsky, in a telephone interview with a newsman from his apartment near the Soviet Embassy in Tokyo, said: "I would not like to speak about this matter. You can get de-

tails from Japanese police or Japanese authorities."

#### Police Reply

A spokesman for the Tokyo police said: "We don't know anything about such an incident. This is the first time to hear such report."

Pokrovsky was an attache at the Soviet Embassy in Washington from 1948 to 1953.

Officials here could not readily recall a case in which the Soviets formally charged in a note that U.S. agents had kidnapped a ranking Soviet diplomat.

However, in February, 1964, after Yuri I. Nossenko, an official of the KGB, the Soviet secret service, defected at Ge-

neva, Switzerland, Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei A. Gromyko verbally protested to U.S. Ambassador Foy Kohler.

#### Defection Case

Nossenko, ostensibly attached to the Soviet disarmament delegation, disappeared from his hotel room on Feb. 4. Four days later, the Russians went to the Swiss police and reported him missing. On Feb. 10, the United States announced he had defected.

Shortly afterward, the Russians were allowed to interview Nossenko in Washington, where he was being kept under wraps by the Central Intelligence Agency. At the interviews—there were two—Nossenko reportedly told the Russian diplomats that he had defected voluntarily.

#### 'More Than Once'

Tass, in reporting the alleged kidnap attempt on Pokrovsky, said U.S. intelligence "has already resorted more than once to such rude provocations."

If so, the Russians have, too. Ironically, Pokrovsky arrived in the United States in 1948, the year that Mrs. Oksana Kosenkina leaped out of the third-floor window of the Soviet Consulate in a dramatic escape from the Russians. She charged she had been kidnaped by the Russians from Reed Farm, Valley Cottage, N.Y. Mrs. Kosenkina tutored the children of Soviet diplomats.

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